

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1 through 19 remain in this application in which claims 10 through 19 are withdrawn. Claim 1 has been amended.

The above Office Action states that FIG. 7 does not appear to be the stabilizer of either the recited first or second latch in that it has an extension portion that is not shown elsewhere in the figures. Quite frankly, it is not clear to the Applicants why the Examiner believes the extension is not shown in FIGs. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14. The extension is best shown in FIG. 14, as it protrudes from the top of the base. Reconsideration of the rejection of Applicants assertion, that there are only two latch embodiments, is respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(h)(5), because FIG. 8 shows modified forms of construction in the same view. In response, Applicants hereby separate FIG. 8 into two figures, namely FIGs. 8A and 8B attached hereto, and corresponding changes are hereby made to the specification. Also, the drawing sheet for FIG. 14 has been changed to correct certain typographical errors. In particular, reference nos. 301 and 303 were changed to 404 and 401, respectively. Approval of the replacement drawing sheets and changes to the specification, as well as reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,816,713 to Chen ("Chen patent").

Independent claim 1 as amended provides, *inter alia*, a clasp that extends at a non-coplanar angle from a portion of the clasp arm. As shown in FIGs. 5 and 6, the clasp is a protrusion that extends from one end of the clasp arm near the thumb release, and the clasp is angled relative to that end of the clasp arm. As explained at page 5, lines 2 through 4, of the specification, the clasp arm is capable of deforming or bending but, even so, the clasp would remain non-coplanar to that portion of the clasp arm.

In contrast, the Chen patent discloses a clasp and a clasp arm that are unitary and coplanar. In fact, page 4 of the above Office Action states that the clasp may be represented by one end of the vertical holding board 351 of the Chen patent, and the clasp arm may be referenced by the middle of the vertical holding board 351. The Chen patent does not describe or suggest a clasp that extends at a non-coplanar angle from a portion of the clasp arm, as required by claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 as amended distinguishes patentably from the Chen patent.

Claims 2 through 9 depend from and include all limitations of independent claim 1 as amended. Therefore, claims 2 through 9 distinguish patentably from the Chen patent for the reasons stated above for amended claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 through 9 are respectfully requested.

### CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
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